(c) whether a Central Team has conducted any survey in this regard; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Research Stations of Indian Veterinary Research Institute

1570. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up more Regional Research Stations of Indian Veterinary Research Institute;

(b) if so the number of new Research stations proposed to be set up during the Eighty Five Year Plan; and

(c) the locations identified for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

Production of Pepper

1571. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the global production of pepper during the last three years, conutry-wise and year-wise figures;

(b) what has been India's production export and internal consumption during this period, year-wise;

(c) the price of pepper during the period year-wise both lowest and highest;

(b) whether any steps are being taken to improve pepper cultivation in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether steps are being taken to see that pepper gets better price as pepper farmers had been getting low remunerative price in previous year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) According to information available, the country-wise global production of pepper during the last three years is given as under :

(1000 tonnes)

Country	1991	1992	1993 (Estimate)
India	55	60	55
Brazil	50	28	23
Indonesia	61	62	37
Malaysia	29	26	20
China	13	12	6
Thailand	10	11	9
Vietnam	9	8	10
Madagaskar	3	3	3
Sri Lanka	3	3	3
Others	1	1	NA.
TOTAL WORLD	234	214	167

(b) India's production, export and the last three years, as available, are given as domestic consumption of pepper during the under :

('000 tonnes)

Year	Production (Trade Estimate)	Eport	Domestic Consumption
1990-91	55.0	30.0	25.0
1991-92	60.0	20.5	39.5
1992-93	55.0	23.8	31.2

(c) The lowest and highest prices of pepper (MG-1) in Cochin market of Kerala are given as under :

(Rs. per kg.)

Year	Lowest	Highest
1990-91	28.38	42.00
1991-92	27.05	38.38
1992-93	26.13	32.88
1993-94		
(upto Jan. 1994)	26.63	47.00

(d) In order to improve pepper cultivation in the country, the Government has undertaken various development programmes which include production and distribution of planting material; rehablitation of old pepper gardens; distribution of input kits; adoption of plant protection measures against quick wilt disease; eradication of 'Little Leaf' disease; field demonstration plots; large scale demonstartion of high production technology; and area expansion programme. Besides Spices Board of India is also supplementing these activities with a number of schemes.

(e) In order to enable the growers to realise a remunerative price, the Government has introduced the market intervention scheme. Besides, since domestic prices of pepper are largely influenced by the exports of the Commodity, efforts are made to step-up the exports through export promotion measures undertaken by Spices Board of India.

Assistance for Emergency Relief Operation

1572. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka had made a request for the release of provisional central assistance amounting to Rs. 60 crores on account of emergency relief operations undertaken by the State Government during the natural calamity caused by incessant and heavy rainfalls and flashfloods in October, 1993;

(b) whether the Centre is aware that the State Government had to resort to drawal of funds from other equally essential allocations, to tide over the calamity situation; and

(c) whether the Centre would consider immediate release of assistance as sought for